

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

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FRENCH FILM COMEDIES TO BE SHOWN AT CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Six classic French comedies by Marcel Pagnol, whose work is the source of the popular current films Jean de Florette and Manon des Sources, will be shown Sundays at 2:15 p.m. at The Cleveland Museum of Art January 3 through February 7.

Pagnol (1895-1974) first won fame as the playwright of such Parisian stage hits as Topaze (1928) and Marius (1929). With the introduction of talking pictures in the 20s, Pagnol saw a means of making his work known to millions. Reluctant to direct the film versions of his stage plays himself, Pagnol hired seasoned veterans to do this for him. Nevertheless, he oversaw all productions as producer and casting director.

The great success of his first screen adaptations emboldened the playwright to direct the later ones himself, and these films possess Pagnol's characteristic warmth, humor, and generosity. Set in southern France, they extolled simple virtues and advocated a return to the soil. Some were adaptations of works by other Provencal writers, notably Jean Giono (Angèle, Harvest, The Baker's Wife) and Alphonse Daudet (Letters from My Windmill).

In nearly all of the films appear members of the director's legendary stock company: Raimu, Fernandel, Orane Démaizis, and Charpin.

- Jan 3-- Topaze (1932) Directed by Louis Gasnier. B&W, subtitles. 102 min.
- Jan 10-- Angèle (1934) B&W, English subtitles. 136 min.
- Jan 17-- Harvest (1937) B&W, English subtitles. 132 min.
- Jan 24-- The Baker's Wife (1938) B&W, English subtitles. 124 min.
- Jan 31-- The Well-Digger's Daughter (1940) B&W, English subtitles. 140 min.
- Feb 7-- Letters from My Windmill (1954) B&W, English subtitles. 135 min.